45 cases for a population of about 12 lakhs work out roughly to ·375 per ten thousand.

Legislation against suicide—incongruity in.

5. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—With reference to Question 61, dated 1st August 1933, regarding incongruity in the existing legislation against suicide, will the Government be pleased to explain how the sixth word "that" in the fifth line of the body of the printed question has taken the place of the word "what" in the original manuscript so as to make the same unintelligible to the Law Member?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—The word 'that' appearing in Question No. 61, dated 1st August 1933, is a mistake in printing. It has since been corrected as "what". The Government had before them at the time the answer was prepared the question in the correct form in which the Hon'ble Member put it. It was nevertheless not intelligible to the Government and hence the answer given.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— If the question has been framed "how can you punish a man if the man has been forced to commit suicide by economic distress" would it be clear?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.— That question would then be considered.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— Is it now understood by the Hon'ble Member?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.— The question now put is understood.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— May I know the answer to this question.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.— I don't think, Sir, that this arises as a supplementary question.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— Is it the President's ruling?

President.—I think so.

Return of questions to remove unintelligibility.

6. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government be pleased to state why Question 61, dated 1st August 1933 was not returned to the Member who put it to get the unintelligibility removed from it?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—The question was not returned to the Member as it had already been framed in accordance with rule 8 of the Legislative Council and as it did not require any amendment under Rule 10 (1) to render it admissible. There is no provision under the Regulation, Rules or Standing

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Orders of the Council, to return admitted questions to the Members for any purpose whatever.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— May I know, Sir, how an unintelligible question can be admitted at all?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.— The admission of questions is done by the President of this Council and the attempt to answer questions is made by the Government. The President admits questions without any elaborate scrutiny if they satisfy the conditions laid down by the rules. When it came to the Government for attempting to answer, then the problem arises with this result that on account of the want of intelligibility in spite of repeated endeavours the Government find that it is not possible to answer.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.— Does the Hon'ble Member mean the President admits questions which are unintelligible?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.— The President admits a question which is prima facie in order on the face of it and without detailed scrutiny. But when an attempt is made to answer the question, then the difficulty arises. The duty of answering the question is cast upon the Government and the Government find that the question cannot be understood or is rather unintelligible.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.— Are we to take it that before the questions are submitted to the President no steps are taken to ascertain whether it is intelligible or not?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.— I have already answered that. The office is not in possession of all the facts. The implications of the question can only be considered by the Government. A question may deal with several facts and how can the Secretary or the President be expected to know all the implications of the questions.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— May I take it that the Hon'ble Member's position is that there is no rule to return unintelligible questions to Members?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.— I am afraid I shall be repeating what I have stated already. But, for the benefit of my Hon'ble friend, I shall repeat it. What I meant was that it is not possible for the Secretary or the President to turn down a question merely because it is not fully intelligible to him. He will not be in possession of all the facts or circumstances necessary for answering a particular question. He primarily considers whether the question is in form or whether it is tabooed by any of the rules or orders. If he finds that it is not so he exercises his discretion liberally with a view to admit it rather than to veto it. Then comes the second turn, the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Government's turn. The Government when trying to answer it finds it hopeless. I suppose that is clear.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Does the Government think it desirable to send back to Members unintelligible questions ?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—When once the question is admitted there is no procedure laid down for sending it back to the Members.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know whether the Hon'ble Member's position is that there is no rule ?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—My position is there in black and white. There is no provision under the Regulation, Rules or Standing Orders of the Council to return admitted questions to the Members for any purpose whatever.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Do the Government consider it desirable to return it to the Members ?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Government have no power.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know whether the Hon'ble Member consider it desirable ?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Whether I consider it desirable or not, that question does not arise. The Hon'ble Member can very well move an amendment to the Standing Orders.

7. **Mr. K. M Ibrahim.**—Will the Government kindly give a full account of the existing provisions for returning questions to Members who put them in order to get them amended and for all other methods of amending questions and also show why Question 61, dated 1st August 1933 did not get the benefits of any of these provisions ?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—The Hon'ble Member's attention is drawn to the Legislative Council Rules Nos. 8 and 10. The President did not consider it necessary to take action under the powers conferred upon him by the latter portion of Rule 10 (1). The want of intelligibility was not due to the form of the question.

Tuberculosis in the State—its economic origin.

8. **Mr. K. M Ibrahim.**—With reference to Question 60, dated 1st August 1933 regarding Tuberculosis in the State and its economic origin, will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) the reason for the non-availability of statistics relating to Tuberculosis ;

(b) the length of notice the Government had to their advantage in answering the question ;

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly